Payment to casual news readers

†1905. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in order to assist in the work of broadcasting of Hindi news bulletins on All India Radio, a panel of casual news-readers has been prepared;

(b) if so, whether all of them are called, in view of exigency of work; and

(c) whether they are paid timely for the services rendered by them, and if not, the reasons therefor and by when their dues would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that Hindi News Readers (casual) are called on rotational basis from the panel prepared by them keeping in view the exigency of work. Prasar Bharati have further informed that all efforts are being made by them to make the payment on time. All the News Readers (casual) who have submitted their contracts have been paid upto July, 2009. Prasar Bharati has also informed that the due payments in respect of casual News Readers (Hindi) booked during the current financial year will be cleared with in this financial year, *i.e.*, 2009-10.

FDI in DTH television services

1906. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been actively considering to increase FDI in DTH television services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increase in FDI in DTH television services could lead to a security threat to the nation;

(d) if so, whether Government has received any representations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the present status of the proposal to increase FDI in DTH television services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) On a reference made by the Government on 11.12.2007, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) on 26.04.2008 submitted the recommendations on foreign investment limits for broadcasting sector. TRAI has recommended that the total foreign investment including FDI for DTH should be 74%. The details of the recommendations of TRAI are available at the website *(www.trai-gov-in)* of TRAI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Representations from M/s. Dish TV India Ltd., a licensee of DTH service, were received alleging a possible security threat by way of select messaging and the like and opposing the increase in FDI in DTH service. The concerns expressed in relation to national security will also be kept in view as and when a final view is taken.

(e) In view of the Press Note No.2 and 4 (2009 Series) issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotions (DIPP) in February 2009 rationalizing calculation of indirect foreign investment in sectors attracting FDI caps including the broadcasting sector, the Ministry has on 30.9.2009 requested the TRAI to revisit the recommendations in the light of these press notes.

Carrying advertisement during serials

†1907. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that viewers are charged for viewing television channels;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether consent of viewers has also been taken for carrying advertisements during these telecasts;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether there is a time-limit fixed for carrying advertisements during the telecast of serials; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Most Television channels in India are viewed through satellite by the consumers on cable network, Direct to Home (DTH), and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV). Doordarshan channels can also be viewed directly through terrestrial mode. For viewing Doordarshan terrestrial channels a consumer is not required to pay. However, for viewing the satellite channels through DTH or IPTV or Cable, consumers are required to pay to the DTH operator or IPTV operator or cable operator. Further television channels may be free to air or pay channels. In case of free to air channels, the operators of different distribution platforms/networks are not required to pay to the broadcasters while in case of pay channels operators/service provider pay a mutually agreed amount of charges to the broadcaster of such channel.

(c) and (d) Consent of viewers is not required for carriage of advertisements by television channels as per the Advertisement Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules made thereunder.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.